

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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INFO AMCONSUL ANTWERP

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SUBJECT: EMBASSY AND CONGEN ANTWERP RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

REF: STATE 94266

1. EMBASSY BRUSSELS AND CONSULATE GENERAL ANTWERP RELATIONS
WITH THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF BELGIUM ARE CLOSE
AND FRIENDLY. THE CONSUL GENERAL IN ANTWERP AND EMBASSY
OFFICERS ARE HONORARY MEMBERS ON THE BOARD OF THE CHAMBER AND
PARTICIPATE FREQUENTLY IN CHAMBER ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS
LUNCHEON SPEAKER OCCASIONS AND CHAMBER MEETINGS. THE EMBASSY
HAS ALSO OBTAINED AMERICAN SPEAKERS FOR CHAMBER AFFAIRS.

2. IN 1965 THE CHAMBER TOOK OVER FROM THE EMBASSY RESPONSIBILITY
FOR PREPARING AND PUBLISHING THE LISTING OF AMERICAN FIRMS
IN BELGIUM.

3. IN ENCOURAGING A CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE EMBASSY
AND AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THE AMBASSADOR IS HOST TO A
REGULAR EMBASSY LUNCHEON BRIEFING ABOUT EVERY TWO MONTHS, TO
WHICH TOP BOARD MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER ARE INVITED ALONG WITH
OTHER LEADERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. TOPICS COVERED THUS
FAR HAVE BEEN THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE INDEMAN'S REPORT ON
EUROPEAN UNION. THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL HAVE AS ITS
SUBJECT, AT THE REQUEST OF THE BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES,
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THE BELGIAN POLITICAL SCENE.

4. PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE,THE CHAMBER'S REPRESENTATIVES
ATTENDING THE WASHINGTON MEETING CALLED AT THE EMBASSY FOR
A BRIEFING ON THE CURRENT BELGIAN ECONOMIC SITUATION FOR
PRESENTATION AT THE MEETING. WE GAVE THEM OUR JUST-COMPLETED
"ECONOMIC TRENDS" REPORT AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE ISSUES
DISCUSSED IN THIS REPORT,TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT.
FIRESTONE

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